



Technical Document

Max Sort

Final Labelling Print Production Specification

Version 1.3

CONTENTS

CONTENTS 2

2. Print and Production..... 3

 Database Specification..... 3

 Label Specification..... 4

2. Print and Production

Database Specification

If you plan to write application software to print Final Labels for Max Sort or Print Direct, you will need to use the IMSFL.DAT file and follow the label design specification.

If you are using the standard Max Sort Final Labelling application, supplied through The Barcode Warehouse, you do not need to use the file or this documentation.

The table below is the file layout for the IMSFL.DAT.

Field Name	Size	Type	Comments
Database Version ID	3	Numeric	1 st digit represents "Version" 2 nd & 3 rd digits represent "Release"
International Selection Code (ISC)	9	Alphanumeric	Unique International Selection Code
Service	1	Alpha	Service
Destination Code (DC)	4	Alpha	Destination Code. Characters 1-3 represent the destination and character 4 indicates the Format of mail item.
Full Country Name	50	Alpha	Full Country Name
Full Destination Name	50	Alpha	Full Destination Name
Label Country Name	35	Alpha	Country Name for use on bag labels
Label Destination Name	35	Alpha	Destination Name for use on bag labels
Total record length	187		

The IMSFL.DAT file contains the information that allows printing of Max Sort and Print Direct Final Labels.

There are 2 sets of Country & Destination information within each file:

- Full Country Name & Full Destination Name, which may be used to produce line listing reports relating to the destination mail bag.
- Label Country Name & Label Destination Name, which must be used to produce bag labels.

A combination of either of the following will give you the row that contains the necessary text to print onto the bag labels:

1. By Destination Code (DC)

Service (1 char)	Destination Code (4 chars)
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2. By International Selection Code (ISC) : Service (1 char), ISC (9 chars)

Service (1 char)	International Selection Code (9 chars)	Last 1 character of the Destination Code.
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To obtain a copy of the IMSFL.DAT file and register for future updates please visit the International Mail Technical website at www.internationalmailtechnical.com and select Bag Labelling, option 3.

Label Specification

Max Sort and Print Direct Final Bag Labels must be printed onto the correct stationery which meets the requirements for dimensions, quality and strength. These are ordered from labels@royalmail.com and are referred to as 'blank Max Sort labels'.

The normal stationery uses Direct Thermal printing technology and it is therefore usual to utilise a Thermal Printer which correctly handles the stock; typically a TEC B Series (472/482/572) or SX series (SX4, SX5).

To print a bag label, you must use the International Selection Code (ISC) and the Service (P for Priority, S for Standard or E for Economy) to find the correct row in the IMSFL.DAT file. The **Destination Code, Label Country Name and Label Destination Name** must then be printed onto the label.

*Please note – you must **not** print the Full Country Name or the Full Destination Name on the labels.*

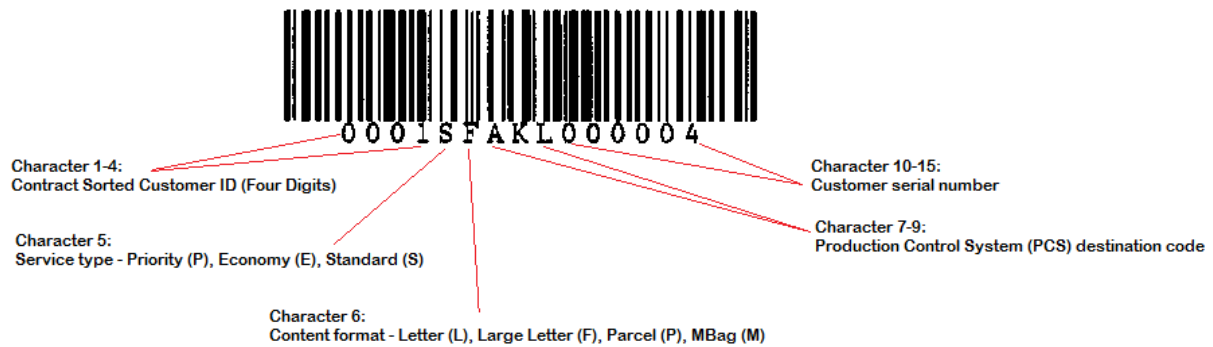
You must also generate the Unique Bag ID which comprises the following elements:

Purpose / Name	Field Size	Example/Notes
Customer ID	4 digits	0001 – allocated by Royal Mail to each system
Service	1 Character	P(riority), S(tandard) or E(conomy)
Format	1 Character	L(etter), F(Large Letter), P(armacel) or M(M Bag) for Print Direct
Destination Code	3 characters	e.g. AFK
Sequential Number	6 digits (zero filled)	e.g. 000001, increasing by one for each individual label printed.

- For a particular customer ID (allocated by Royal Mail), each Unique ID will always start with the same first 4 digits.
- Label printing systems will need to record the last issued 'Sequential Number' to survive restarts of the labelling application, reboots of the PC, etc.
- When the sequential number reaches 999999, it should reset to 000001.
- If multiple printers or applications are producing bag labels, the sequence numbers must come from a common pool – (e.g. shared network resource) otherwise it will be possible to generate duplicate IDs.

Example:

0001PAFKL000001
 0001PAFKL000002
 0001EAFKL000001
 0001EAFKL000002
 0001ECURL000001



The Database will contain destination and Format code combinations according to the international mailing contract agreements.

Region*	Format Options	Notes
Western Europe, Rest of Europe and Rest of World	"Letters" "Large Letters" "Parcels" "M Bags (Print Direct)"	M Bag is the operational term for the Print Direct service

Example Label showing elements

No.	Purpose / Name	Font
1	Product Name (MAX SORT or PRINT DIRECT)	10mm (36pt)
2	Destination Name	10mm (36pt)
3	Country Name – please note you must enclose within (Brackets)	6mm (22pt)
4	Format Description (Content of the Bag)	15mm 3mm (11pt)
5	Unique Bag Identifier: Barcode Format Human Readable format.	15mm 3mm (11pt)
6	Service (Priority, Standard or Economy)	10mm (36pt)
	<i>The remainder of the label is fixed text and lines comprising:</i>	
7	The words "Min bag weight 1.5kg"	3mm (11pt)
8	The words "Max bag weight must not exceed 11kg"	3mm (11pt)
9	Edge marks – top left / top right / bottom left / bottom right	0.5mm thick
10	Lines around the Format Description	0.5mm thick

Note:

- Text is printed using Arial or Helvetica font
- Service must show the words PRIORITY, STANDARD or ECONOMY
- For some destinations, it will be necessary to use a reduced font size : where the Label Country Name and/or Label Destination Name are too long to be printed at the indicated size.
- Barcode is printed using Code 128:
 - auto Code Set selection
 - Pseudo 103 check digit
 - Narrow Bar Width
 - Barcode Module Width between 0.38mm and 0.42mm
 - Height 15mm
- Human Readable edition of the barcode is printed in Courier font, 3mm high